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MAJOR EFFORT ON CHING-CHIANG FLOOD DIVERSION PROJECT -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang
Jih-pao, 6 Apr 52

Wuhan, 4 April (Hsin-hua) -- More than 200,000 people are directly engaged in strengthening and raising the height of the dikes on both sides of the Ching-chiang section of the Yangtze River and of the Hu-tu Ho, and connecting them at their north and south ends to enclose an area of over 921 square kilometers to serve as a floodwater retention basin. At the north end, near Chiang-ling (Ching-chou), a control lock to admit floodwater is to be constructed at T'ai-p'ing-k'ou. Two locks to control the discharge of impounded water are to be built, one at the southwest corner and one on the southeast side above Ou-ch'ih-k'ou. Many large and small river craft are busily engaged in transporting the equipment and supplies for this mammoth undertaking.

In 1921, over 5 million mou of cultivated land in the rice-producing area lying north of the Yangtze River, between the cities of Sha-shih and Hankow, were inundated and over 3 million people suffered from the effect of the floodwaters. Formerly, along the river below I-ch'ang, there were many lakes and shallow basins which served to accommodate floodwaters, but in the course of years these have become silted up to such a degree that their storage capacity has been greatly reduced. As a consequence, the level of water in flood season at Sha-shih often reaches more than 44 meters above Wu-sung zero datum line, and the flow is as much as 50,000 cubic meters per second, whereas the capacity of the channel, which is narrow and winding, is only some 40,000 cubic meters per second.

Although the Ching-chiang dike is 12 meters high, there is as much as 7 or 8 meters difference in level between the inner foot and the outer foot of the dike. Hence, if the dike should break suddenly at any point, the whole region to the north and east would be imperiled, and, in addition, there would be the possibility of the Yangtze River changing its course, resulting in the paralysis of navigation above Hankow and the disruption of the economy of much of southwest China. There is a saying among the people living in the region around Mien-yang that due to frequent flood they only get one good harvest every 10 years. This accurately reflects the seriousness of the flood peril under which the people of this region have been living, and the hazard which it is the purpose of this project to remove.

The Ching-chiang dike, which extends from Chiang-ling to Ma-pu-kwai, a distance of 133 kilometers, is locally called the Dike of Fate, for upon the successful completion of the present project, which is one of the major proportions, depends the fate of not only the 3 million people of the immediate vicinity but also of the many more millions who live around the Tung-t'ing Hu, in Hunan, and in the downstream areas of Anhwei and Kiangsu.

230,000 FARMING PEOPLE MOVED FROM CHING-CHIANG BASIN -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao
Jih-pao, 10 Apr 52

Wuhan, 8 April (Hsin-hua) -- On 5 April, formal opening ceremonies marked the fact that the Ching-chiang Flood Diversion Project is in full swing. The chief of the project's engineering command, T'ang T'ien-chi, and his associates, Hsu Tzu-wei and Yuan Chen, are all on the site supervising operations. Over 200,000 troops and civilian laborers are in eager competition to complete the task before the summer floods arrive.

The site of this project lies in portions of Chiang-ling (Ching-chou) Hsien, Kung-an Hsien, and Shih-shou Hsien. This area, roughly triangular in shape, is bounded on the east by the Ching-chiang section of the Yangtze River,

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on the west by the Hu-tu Ho, and on the south by the An-hsiang Ho. It is such low land that it is flooded 9 years out of ten; according to local tradition one year of clear water, 3 years of small floods and 5 years of big floods. Some 230,000 farming people formerly occupying the area have been settled elsewhere, spurred by the slogan, "the removal of a few people from one spot means the security of many."

The admission control locks are to be constructed at T'ai-p'ing-k'ou, near the point where the Hu-tu Ho diverges from the Yangtze River. One of the discharge control locks is to be located at the south end, near Huang-shan-t'ou, in the vicinity of the junction of the Hu-tu Ho and the An-hsiang Ho. [There is to be another discharge control lock on the Ching-chiang side, above Ou-ch'ih-k'ou.]

BOMB YELLOW RIVER ICE JAMS -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 8 Apr 52

Kuei-sui, 7 April (Peiping broadcast) -- Between 1 - 14 March 1952, the ice of the Yellow River from Lan-chou to Ning-hsia broke up, and floating ice formed ice bridges at 15 places and ice jams at 19 places in Suiyuan Province. This causes the water to back up to such an extent that it threatened to flood one cultivated fields along the banks.

The peasants were organized to stand watch day and night. On 16 March, the Central People's Government sent a detachment of artillery troops to blow up the jams and on 31 March seven airplanes were sent to assist in this work. When the task was completed the threat of floods was removed.

PUSH SPRING REPAIRS OF YELLOW RIVER DIKES -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 18 Apr 52

K'ai-feng, 16 April (Hsin-hua) -- Over 100,000 peasant laborers are at work on the annual spring repairs to the more than 2,000 li $\sqrt{3}$ li equal one mile of dikes on both sides of the Yellow River where it flows through the provinces of Honan, Pingyuan, and Shantung. The objective is to make the dikes high enough and strong enough to stand a flow up to 23,000 cubic meters per second when passing the city of Shen-chou, Honan. It is estimated that the more than 5,500,000 cubic meters of earthwork involved will be finished by the end of May. The daily work norm is the moving of an average of 10 cubic meters of earth per person; some groups have already exceeded this mark.

Besides this work, over 2,400 men are laying a stone facing on a diversion dam for the overflow locks which were built in 1951 near Shih-t'ou-chuang in Ch'ang-yuan Hsien, Pingyuan province.

WATER ADMITTED TO THE WEI HO CANAL -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 18 Apr 52

Hsin-hsiang, 17 April (Hsin-hua) -- On 10 April 1952, water was formally admitted to the newly constructed canal which is to conduct Yellow River water into the Wei Ho. [This Wei Ho should not be confused with the Wei River which enters the Yellow River near T'ung-kuan on the edge of Shensi Province.] The purpose of this project, which was begun in 1951, is to increase the navigability of the Wei Ho between Hsin-hsiang and Tientsin, and to irrigate some 230,000 mou of valuable agricultural land on both sides of the Peiping-Hankow Railway north of Hsin-hsiang. The gates were opened gradually to permit a flow of 40 cubic meters per second which soon found its way to the adjoining wheat fields. Next year, the project is to be enlarged to irrigate up to 860,000 mou of land. At the ceremony, the canal was named The People's Victory Canal.

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TO FARM DELTA OF THE YELLOW RIVER -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 16 Mar 52

Tsinan, 15 March (Hsin-hua) -- The Department of Agriculture and Forestry of the Shantung People's Government have undertaken the establishment of a large government-operated mechanized farm near the mouth of the Yellow River. In Kuang-jao Hsien, Li-ching Hsien, and K'en-li Hsien there are some 600,000 mou of uncultivated but potentially fertile land which was formed by alluvial deposit. It is planned to put 200,000 mou of this land under cultivation this year and on it to produce about 20 million catties of rice. The organization of the project and the procurement of power equipment and tools are now under way. It is expected to have the whole area under cultivation in 3 years.

OVERHAUL CH'ENG-TU BASIN IRRIGATION SYSTEM -- Hong Kong, Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 8 Apr 52

Chungking, 6 April (Hsin-hua) -- The annual repair of the irrigation system of the Tu Chiang /probably should read the Min Chiang/ which waters 3 million mou in the Ch'eng-tu basin, has been completed. On 1 April, some 8,000 people were present at Yen-hsien /probably should read Kuan-hsien/ on the occasion when the sluice gates were formally opened for the coming season. In this clearing of the irrigation canals, an aggregate surface of 2,650,000 square meters were cleared and the embankments and sluice gates were strengthened. By the establishment of control stations to regulate the flow of water in the various canals, the irrigated area has been increased by 33,000 mou. In addition, 150,000 mou which formerly did not receive enough water, will now be assured of an adequate supply.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH REGION HOLDS WATER CONSERVANCY CONFERENCE -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 5 Jan 52

Hankow -- An important 10-day conference on water conservancy matters was held in Hankow, 15 - 24 December 1951, attended by representative officials, engineers, executives, and cadres from all the provinces in the Central and South Regional District. After unhurried consideration of the accomplishments of and weaknesses in the work during 1950 and 1951, and the pressing needs for 1952, the conference reached the following conclusions:

The aggregate volume of water conservancy projects planned for 1952 shall include: earthwork, one trillion cubic meters, /sic/; masonry, 375,000 cubic meters; additional irrigated land, 28 million mou; small-scale improvements such as wells, ponds, embankments, ditches, weirs, etc., totaled 970,000 pieces of work; and the acreage to benefit from above small-scale projects, 39,900,000 mou.

The past weaknesses were found to include: lack of adequate planning; projects undertaken without approval of supervisory agencies, resulting in defects and waste; main consideration given to large rivers, with neglect of small tributary streams; waste in use of manpower and equipment; and emphasis by cadres on quantity instead of on quality.

The central aims for 1952 include: improving the quality of winter work and making full preparation for 1952 spring work; assembling the necessary materials and equipment; promoting greater degree of interest and cooperation on the part of the masses in water conservancy and drought prevention work; promoting the Production and Economy Movement; opposing corruption, waste, and bureaucracy.

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